

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for vacuum packing a valve bag with particulate material while simultaneously weighing the filling bag to achieve a selected total weight when the packing is terminated; the apparatus comprising:

a frame having a chamber section and a weighing section, said sections
5 being separated by frame wall;

said chamber section having connections to a feed line, a vacuum line
and a vent line and having a door control mechanism;

10 said weighing section having a bag support device selectively enclosed
by a plurality of screen doors and being in cantilevered relation to a weighing device
within said weighing section; and

said frame having outer doors controlled by said door control mechanism
for opening and closing said weighing section for selectively providing a vacuum in said
weighing section for filling a bag with said material.

2. The apparatus recited in claim 1 wherein said weighing device comprises
a load cell.

3. The apparatus recited in claim 1 wherein said weighing section comprises a spout for receiving a bag to be filled, said spout being connected to said feed line by a flexible connection.

4. An apparatus for filling a bag under at least a partial vacuum and weighing the bag during filling to provide a filled bag having a selected weight; the apparatus comprising:

a frame having an evacuable interior for receiving a bag on a spout
5 connected to a source of material for filling said bag; and
a weighing device within said interior for measuring the weight of said bag
as said bag is being filled.

5. The apparatus recited in claim 4 wherein said weighing device comprises a load cell.

6. The apparatus recited in claim 4 wherein said bag is secured within said interior by a plurality of screens.

7. The apparatus recited in claim 4 wherein said spout is decoupled from said frame to avoid inaccuracy in weighing said bag.

8. The apparatus recited in claim 4 wherein said bag is positioned in cantilevered relation with said weighing device while said bag is being filled.

9. A method for weighing a bag being filled with a particulate material within an evacuated housing; the method comprising the steps of:

providing a bag chair for receiving said bag;

providing a spout for feeding said material into said bag;

providing a weighing device within said housing; and

5 suspending said spout and bag chair within said housing in cantilevered relation to said weighing device.

10. The method recited in claim 9 wherein said step of providing a weighing device comprises the step of positioning a load cell within said interior.